

Green Building

Measure 19 – Government Water Audits

10 Points

Conduct water audits (indoor and outdoor) of existing local government facilities and implement recommendations –or– Engage in performance contracting for water use in government buildings.

Discussion:

In late 2007 the Cobb County Board of Commissioners authorized a comprehensive review of government water use and the retrofitting of existing county buildings. An audit of County buildings was made by Property Management in cooperation with Cobb County Water System and other participating county departments. Older, high water using fixtures were identified and replaced with low flow and HET products where piping and maintenance would allow.

In total, 96 buildings were inspected. 479 toilets, 126 urinals, 133 showerheads, and 50 sink aerators were replaced with low flow or waterless products. In addition to the audits and replacement of fixtures, signs were posted at county facilities requesting users to report leaks and providing contact information and phone number for reporting. Cooling towers were inspected, and operational changes were made at the Cobb Detention Facility reducing significantly water used in showers.

A part year review of the effect of these changes was made in August, 2008, 8 months after the program kick-off in January, 2008. The review documented water use at 70 of the 96 facilities surveyed (utility records were not readily available for the remaining sites). This review documented decreased water use for the 8 month period in excess of 7.5 million gallons. This represented savings of almost 30% in the county's public buildings, and over 8% in the detention center, our largest water account.

Documentation:

The following documentation is enclosed with this application

- Board of Commissioner Agenda Items adopted November, 2007 for Phase I and Phase II program funding
- Summary of the Fixture Replacement Program identifying counts of fixtures replaced.
- Initial, part year Water Savings report